

CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A screw element with a tool engagement means-(5, 6) and a spring element-(8) which is formed on the screw element in one piece in coaxial relationship with the screw axis-(7) and which with its free edge defines a workpiece contact plane which is perpendicular to the screw axis and which is at an axial spacing from the screw element-(1), ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) is mounted at the periphery of the screw element, that is to say a screw head-(4) or a screw nut, it projects radially beyond the periphery and it forms a workpiece contact means-(9) which is disposed outside the periphery and which is in concentric relationship with the screw axis-(7).
2. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) is a ring which is concentric with respect to the screw axis-(7) and which has a workpiece contact means-(9) which is annular throughout.
3. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 2 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the ring forming the spring element-(8) has a plurality of openings-(20) distributed uniformly over its periphery.
4. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 1 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) comprises a plurality of radial, claw-like projections-(11) which each have at least a respective portion of the workpiece contact means-(9).
5. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 4 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ three projections-(11) are arranged distributed uniformly at the periphery of the screw element-(1).

6. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that claim 5, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) has a relatively flat spring characteristic.

7. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in claim 6 ~~characterised in that, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) is of lower hardness than the screw element-(1).

8. (Currently amended) A screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that claim 7, wherein~~ the spring element-(8) has projections-(13, 14, 14a) in the region of the workpiece contact means-(9).

9. (Currently amended) A screw-(1) having a head-(4) in the form of the screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that claim 8, wherein~~ it is of a thread-forming and optionally self-boring nature.

10. (Currently amended) A screw connection between two workpieces of which at least one is a metal plate or a plastic element, with a screw element as set forth in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that claim 9, wherein~~ only the spring element-(8) and it bears with a predetermined prestressing force against the adjoining workpiece.